

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00415 141009 Z

12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-10 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AF-10 NIC-01 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /127 W

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P 140930 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 6379

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, BU, US

SUBJ: CHARGES OF US COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI RAID

REF: STATE 068818; SOFIA 411

1. OTECHSTVEN FRONT APRIL 14 FRONT PAGED TWO OBJECTIONABLE
PIECES KEEPING ALIVE CHARGE OF US COMPLICITY IN BEIRUT RAID.
REPORT ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION SAID " SCALI ATTEMPTED
REBUT JUSTIFIED ACCUSATION AGAINST AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE
SERVICES." OTHER PIECE WAS SATIRICAL COMMENTARY DERIDING
SECRETARY ROGERS STATEMENT TO REPRESENTATIVES OF 13
ARAB STATES THAT US GOV " HAD NO CONNECTION WITH THE
SLAUGHTER".

2. I HAD ASKED SEE PROTOCOL CHIEF SHTEREV APRIL 14 PRIMARILY
TO RAISE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS BULGARIAN MEDIA REPLAY OF
PALESTINIAN CHARGES, REMINDING HIM OF 1967 ARAB
DEMONSTRATION WHICH CAUGHT GOB SECURITY ORGANS BY SURPRISE
AND POINTING OUT OTHER MISSIONS, WITH PERHAPS LESS REASON,
ALREADY WORRIED BY POSSIBILITY OF TERRORIST ACTION HERE.
SHTEREV ADMITTED THIS PROBLEM NOT IMAGINARY. SAID GOB HAD
EXPULSED SOME TERRORISTS IN PAST AND THERE WERE MANY ARAB
STUDENTS AND TRANSIENTS HERE. SAID HE WOULD ASK AUTHORITIES
TAKE NECESSARY PROTECTIVE MEASURES.

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PAGE 02 SOFIA 00415 141009 Z

3. I SAID THIS ONLY PART OF US CONCERN. WE FELT STRONGLY NO RESPONSIBLE GOV SHOULD REPEAT ABSOLUTELY FALSE CHARGES WHICH MOST VIGOROUSLY DENIED BY HIGH USGOVT OFFICIALS AND WHICH CAN ONLY ENCOURAGE TERRORISTS STRIKE AT AMERICANS. FURTHERMORE, BULGARIAN MEDIA REPLAY THOSE FALSE CHARGES NOT HELPFUL IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY OTECHESTVEN FRONT COMMENTARY IN EFFECT CALLING SECRETARY ROGERS A LIAR. SHTEREV RESPONDED THAT HE PERSONALLY DID NOT THINK PERSONAL PRESS ATTACKS ON STATESMEN WERE USEFUL BUT PROMISED ONLY TO INFORM HIS MINISTER OF MY DEMARCHE.

4. TRANSLATION OF " OTECHESTVEN FRONT" COMMENTARY WILL BE FORWARDED NEXT WEEK AND DEPT MAY WISH TELL ZDRAVCHEV DATE CANNOT BE SET FOR LUKANOV VISIT UNTIL COMMENTARY ANALYZED. WE WILL CONTINUE FOLLOW MEDIA TREATMENT OF BEIRUT RAID. HOUSTON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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